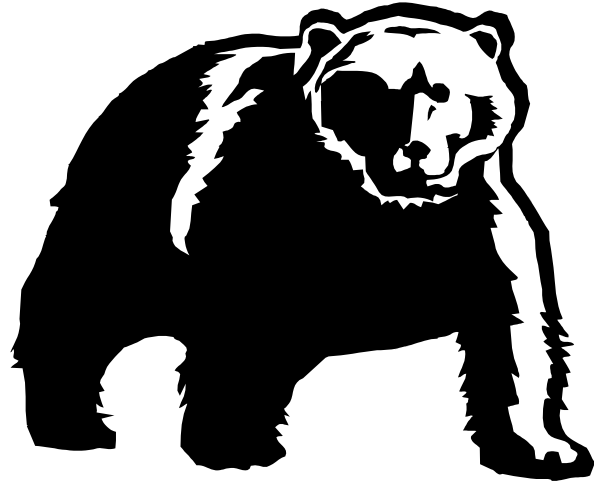


# Bear Lake Wilderness Camp

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**Bear Hunting in  
Ontario, Canada**



<http://www.blwc.com>



## ***Bear Hunting Primer***

At Bear Lake, we pride ourselves on helping you make the most of your trip. We never lose sight of this fact, "This is your vacation". We will do anything in our power to ensure a safe, rewarding, and ethical hunt. The catalyst for this primer rests in that desire and the knowledge that there is no substitute for preparation.

The enclosed document is meant to serve as an aid to our Bear Hunters. This is for Bear Lake Customers only. Non authorized Possession constitutes theft.

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### **Home Address & Reservations**

6803 Gunpowder Lane  
Prospect, KY 40059  
(502) 228-7625 **Oct - Apr**  
(502) 548-1266 (Kim's Cell)  
(502) 648-2758 (Bill's Cell)

### **Bear Lake Wilderness Camp**

Major Bill Drane (USAR)  
Bear Lake Wilderness Camp  
PO Box 5262  
Espanola, Ontario P5E 1S3  
(705) 866-7100 **May - Oct**

# WELCOME HUNTERS

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you. Our staff is excited to have you. We will do whatever we can to ensure that you have a *Great and Safe* Hunt. Our primary concern is your safety. For that reason we have some rules that you must agree to in order to hunt.



## Rules of the Road

- 1) There will be **no unauthorized / unsupervised discharge of a gun** on the island. We will terminate your Hunt and take you back to car. Authorization and supervision can only be given by Bill, Jim, or Kim . If you need to resight your gun, we will set up a range and run it by Military Standards. Safety is our primary concern. There is a bow range on the backside of the island this is the only place for discharge of a bow. Just let us know that you are using it so we can keep our dogs up.
- 2) **Impaired Hunters** (Alcohol or otherwise) will not be tolerated. Feel free to drink if you are not hunting or operating a boat. Impaired hunting will terminate your Hunt.
- 3) Wear your **Hunters Orange** (Vest & Hat). If you are hunting from an elevated stand you may remove your orange once you get in your stand. Traveling by foot or by boat to/from your stand requires that you wear Hunter Orange. If you are hunting from a ground blind, you are required to keep your Hunters Orange on.
- 4) Keep your **gun unloaded** and in the case when moving to/from your stand.
- 5) If you are hunting from an elevated stand **use a safety strap** and use a lowering line to raise your weapon into your stand. Please bring them with you.
- 6) Make sure that you have gas in your boat. We recommend that you bring your tank by in the evening to be filled up when you come in
- 7) **Weather Conditions.** Storms can come up quickly, so monitor the weather conditions and your radio. Bear Lake is a large east - west lake and it is not uncommon to have good sized whitecaps. Use terrain features to make your way back or wait out the storm.
- 8) **Tornadoes and Severe Weather.** If you hear an air horn, then you need to make your way back to the lodge as quickly as you can. If you can not beat the storm, take cover.
- 9) Monitor your FRS Radio and the frequency we assign.

**Hunters must keep their stands free from debris/refuse.**

# Black Bears (General Info)

Black bears can be black, brown or reddish, all having light brown muzzles. These bears are nimble tree climbers, going in search of vegetation and bees' nests. Contrary to the perception that all bears can climb trees, black bears are the only ones in North America with that ability.



Black bears are located in all of Canada except northernmost areas. Males can weigh over 650 pounds and reach seven feet in length. Bears are known for their poor sight- relying on their smell and hearing to help track down prey and other food.

Males live alone while females nurture and teach cubs for about two years. They mark their territories (which can reach up to 100 square miles) by leaving claw marks on trees. During breeding season, starting around May, males travel around to females' territories seeking out the ones in heat. Males will fight for the right to breed females, biting and slashing each other with their claws.

Black bears prefer wooded habitat, which supplies them with many types of food. These bears are omnivorous, eating both vegetation and animal flesh. They love berries so much their droppings are full of the undigested fruit and honey is another favorite.

During winter months black bears hibernate. They gorge themselves in the fall to build up fat reserves, then hole up in a den for winter. They live off the stored fat, as their body temperatures and systems slow down.

The best way of hunting black bears is using bait. A concoction of the food they love-honey, fruit, meat, donuts, etc.- is piled on the ground, as the hunter waits in a tree stand nearby. Their keen noses will lure them into the area and shooting range. We at Bear Lake take great pride in our baiting techniques. We have studied baiting results and narrowed our baits to what works.

**You will be assigned a stand based on your hunting characteristics. This is your stand for the week. If you choose to change/modify the baits, then you will have to accept the results for better or worse. We have baited each stand daily for a month.**

The Fall Hunt is much different than the Spring Bear Hunt. In Fall, the bears are foraging for food and are less territorial. Bears will travel as much as they have to get food for the long winter. Their primary foods will be blueberries, raspberries, acorns, and whatever else they can get.



We use both baits that appeal to their cravings and sustain. We use a 15% based molasses sweet feed, grease and augment it with sweet baits with Vanilla, Honey, and Caramel. Our bait is a proven winner. If you can smell it, imagine how far the scent carries!

## Chippewa Indian Saying



A pine needle falls in the woods.

The Eagle sees it fall.

The Deer hears it fall.

The Bear smells it fall.

## Black Bears (scent precautions)

The nose on the black bear is phenomenal. His sense of smell covers for the bear's lesser senses. Both hearing and eyesight are average. This means that you need to do everything possible to take care of your scent. Some examples include:

- A) Use scent free soap/shampoo (**no earth scent**) to bathe and wash your clothes.
- B) Use *rubber sole boots* and gloves.
- C) Use scent lock suits or clothes with charcoal (Army Chemical Suit)
- D) Only wear your hunting clothes when hunting. Hang them up when not.
- E) Avoid strong human smells like gasoline and smoke.
- F) **Do Not Smoke while hunting. Use a patch or nicotine inhaler.**
- G) If you must to smoke, tell us and we will put you in a stand where smoking won't totally kill your chances of getting a bear. If you do smoke...pick up your cigarette butts.
- H) Watch the foods that you eat, multiple toilet trips won't help.
- I) Place your bait pails at the bait site and not at the base of your stand.
- J) Watch where you relieve yourself (No where near your bait or stand).
- K) **The Rule of 6** - There is a widely held theory that bears, especially trophy-sized bears, will smell your scent trail no matter what you do. The theory goes that the bear determines whether your scent is dangerous by how strong (or recent) the scent is. They believe that you should enter your stand no less than 6 hours prior to your targeted or prime time. I believe there is some truth in this theory.



# Stand Selection

As mentioned earlier, we have baited each stand for at least 30 days. We know what is being hit and how often. We will pair you up with a stand that is being actively hit (at least once every three days) and matches your hunting characteristics. This is your assigned stand for the week. For the duration of your hunt, you will be baiting your own stand. Once you get a bear, we will put your stand back on our baiting dispatch list and we will resume baiting.

If the bears are not hitting, you will be allowed to change stands once. A missed shot at a Bear does not constitute a justifiable reason for changing stands. Here is the process for changing stands. You will notify us on Mon Night, that you would like to change stands. You will sit down with one of us and review the available stands. We will show you the hit statistics and the characteristics. On Wednesday, you can begin hunting the other stand.



## When should we hunt?

Prepare and be ready to hunt Saturday Afternoon. **Get an early Dock Pickup.** Take Saturday seriously. Many Bears are taken on Saturday.

For optimal results you should be in your stand, no later than 1:00 PM. From 1:00 PM to dark is considered by most as the prime time.

Many debate the effectiveness of AM hunting. Many outfitters consider the morning hunt to be counter-productive. They figure that you are more apt to scare more bears on your way in.

Many of the hits are occur in the AM, while almost all of our bears are taken in the PM. Many folks fish in the morning, eat a good lunch, and hunt the PM. The bottom line is this; this is your trip and how you hunt is up to you, but be in your stand NLT 1:00 PM.

## How stands are assigned

- 1) Most Active Baits.
- 2) Type of weapon bow/gun and/or caliber of gun.
- 3) Physical Condition / Limitations of hunter. Smoker? Ground Blind?
- 4) Ability to pair you up in a boat with a fellow party member.
- 5) Personal shot/stand preference.

## Avoid making human noises

- 1) Coughing, sneezing, throat clearing, .
- 2) Clothing noises; fabric rustling, zipper action, snaps and the killer - VELCRO
- 3) Metallic sounds.
- 4) Focus on being very quiet on your walk in.
- 5) An effective technique is to walk in with a partner and let them bait for you while get in your position. They will make noise on their way out. This is a proven technique.

# Closing the Deal !!

There is no substitute for accuracy. It is likely that you will get one shot at that bear. Hopefully, the time that you spent at the range will help.

All hunters should be extremely selective with their shots, but bow hunters must be even more selective. There are only a few angles the bear can show you for a good shot.

You might have to wait 10-15 agonizing minutes to get a proper shot. Keep this in mind, if the bait truly brought the bear to the bait (not just one passing through) it will stick around for some time. There is absolutely no reason to rush your shot.



## BAD SHOTS

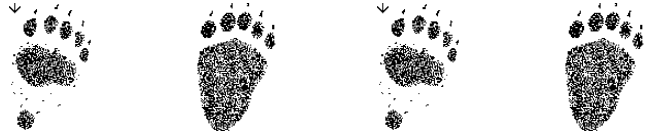
- 1) Bear is directly facing you. This is an impossible shot for either bow or gun.
- 2) Bear is facing you at a 0 - 45° angle. At this position the scapula covers the vitals.

## GOOD SHOTS

- 1) Bear is broadside. Aim for the heart lung vitals. The ribs may interfere, but this is an acceptable shot bow or gun.
- 2) Bear is facing away from you at a 0-45° angle. This is as good as it gets. This shot is referred to as "Quartering Away".

Controlling your emotions at the moment of truth is vital. We have actually had SWAT members actually miss a bear. There is no disgrace in that. It happens.

If you have the opportunity, shoot again. Bears are very vigorous animals with a lot of fat. A second shot may make a difference.

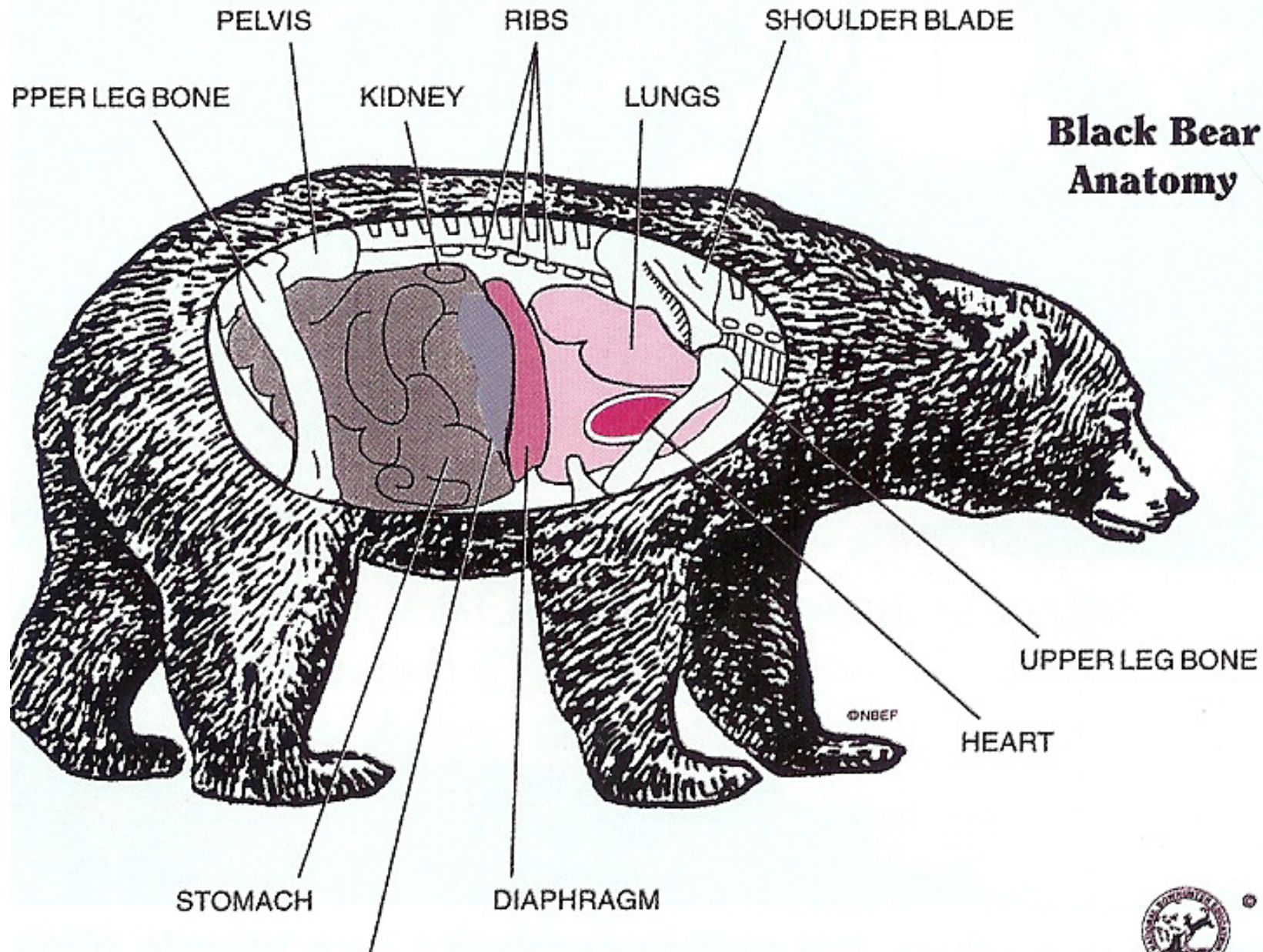


## The Shot

- 1) Wait for your shot.
- 2) When a good angle is presented, focus on preparing for your shot.
- 3) Remove the bear from your focus.
- 4) Quietly, get your weapon into position without being seen.
- 5) Return focus back to the bear. You should be focusing on the quick kill area (heart / lungs).
- 6) Lock in on that area.
- 7) Breath in, hold it, squeeze or let it go. If you have the opportunity shoot again.

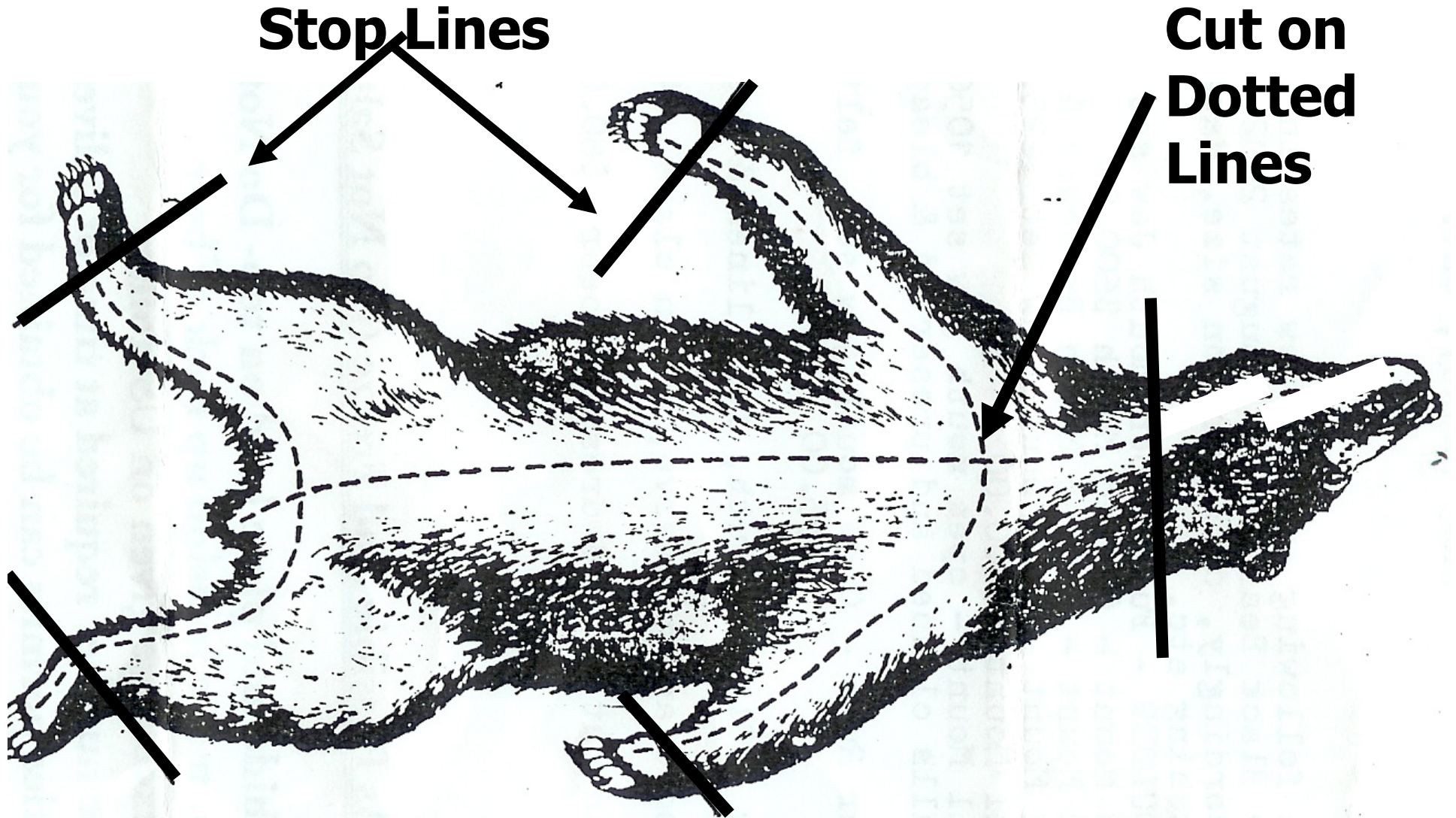


# *Know Your Black Bear Anatomy*





# Skinning your Bear





## **Bottom Line Black Bear Tips**

Black Bears are very sensitive to perfume, cologne, deodorant, hair spray, scented soaps, scented laundry detergent, cigarette and cigar smoke etc. etc...

With this in mind, before the hunt; try to prepare by trying some of the following

- 1)** Before coming up north for the hunt, wash all your clothes twice. First with laundry detergent and then a second time with a scent neutralizing soap to make sure all the scents are out of your clothes. Save grease from Maple Flavored Bacon. It works great as a lure.
- 2)** If you smoke, bring some nicotine patches so you don't get the craving while you are in the tree stand. The big trophy bears are older and smarter and know what tobacco smells like and they know it comes from humans. Not smoking will give you a better chance at a trophy bear. All animals have an instinctive fear of smoke and fire.
- 3)** Stay very quiet. Bring some mint flavored throat lozenges with you in case your throat gets scratchy. This will help keep you from coughing.
- 4)** Use Scent Free unscented deodorant, soap and shampoo. Use scent eliminators but do not use cover scents. A bear will smell through them.
- 5)** Stay still. A bear's visual acuity is largely based on movement. Actually, that's true with most animals.
- 6)** After breakfast or after lunch, either brush your teeth with mint toothpaste or chew mint gum while you are in the tree stand. When people go camping in Ontario's parks, the first thing the ranger says is keep gum and toothpaste out of your tent. Black Bears go nuts over the scent of mint. So mint toothpaste and gum will not only cover up any scent on your breath, it may even attract bears.
- 7)** If you are going to drink alcohol (which is your choice), it's best to drink beer. The next day, the beer smell in your body slowly dissipates and smells somewhat like bread. Other forms of alcohol tend to give you more of an artificial chemical smell. You may not notice it, but the next morning, people who have not been drinking can smell it on you. A bear's sense of smell is about 250 times better than a human.

### **Bear Size:**

In most cases, big ears mean a smaller bear. A small ear is usually a bigger bear. Once a bear reaches three years old (approx. 100 lbs.), the bear starts to grow into it's ears. The ears and eyes don't grow as much as they do in the first three years. Sometimes if a bear has a hard year with food, the ears will look bigger because the bear is thinner.

### **Cub:**

When a sow is with cubs, 90% of the time the cubs are in the lead. The cubs will make more noise than a single bear. Most of the time, adult bears make little or no noise.

### **Sow:**

You can't shoot a sow with cubs. This is the law. So make 100% sure you know what you are shooting at. Take a really good look around to make sure there are no cubs. A sow's ears are usually closer together, as a male bear's cranium grows wider on top and the ears look farther apart. They also look smaller, which is really an illusion.

# Bear Hunt Checklist & Last Minute Reminders

Recommended Hunting Packing List				
Must Have	Should Have		Gun Hunters	Archers
US Hunting License*	Extra Stand	Flashlight	Guns	Bows
Orange Hat *	Back Pack	Camera & Film	Ammo	Arrows
Orange Vest*	Boots	Extra Batteries	Hard Gun Case	Soft Bow Case
Safety Strap*	Hunting Clothes	GPS	Soft Gun Case	Hard Bow Case
Rope / lowering Line	Scent Lok Suits	Hunting Knife	Trigger Locks	Broadheads
Radios (FRS)	Scent Free Soap	Wet Weather Gear	Scope	Release
Compass	Cover Scent	First Aid Kit	Fire Arms Form	Quiver
Ice Chests	Canteen	Lantern	Cleaning Kit	Repair Kit

- A** You must have an old US Hunting License or a Hunter's Safety Card or Canada will not issue you tags.
- B** You must keep your Firearm Declaration Form with you. This your Canadian Gun Permit. You can bring up as many as 3 guns on form. The cost is currently \$ 25 CAD. Charge this to get the better exchange rate.
- C** If for some reason you have problem with the Firearm Declaration Form, you can download another from [www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca](http://www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca) Or you can just wait until you reach the border. Dont sign until you reach Customs.
- D** We recommend bringing your guns (and bows) in a hard case. This keeps from bumping sights / scopes etc. Bring your rods-n-reels in soft gun cases. This protects your rods and you can use a soft gun case in the boat going to your stand. Your gun needs to be cased when moving to/your stand and soft cases are much quieter.
- E** Bring Large Sized Ice Chests. A good idea is to use the extra ones to pack your gear. Pack a some empty duffel bags so you can load the coolers with your game and load the gear back into these bags
- F** If you have an extra stand, consider bringing it. The wind shifts frequently. This may provide you with more comfort and another angle or shot on the bait. Remember, there are no weight limits on the boat in.
- G** Bring a Motorola Walkabout type radio and batteries for each person. These radios have a 2 - 5 mile range . You can get them at Walmart or Target and they are fairly inexpensive.
- H** Bring a compass. Not only is good for getting your bearings, it is good for tracking your bear. When you shoot your bear watch it until you can see it no more. Shoot an azimuth to the last known location and hang hunters orange in the tree. Go to where you last saw the bear and shoot a back azimuth. There is a lot of dense terrain and this technique has helped us in the past. **GPS WORKS WELL TOO.**
- I** Spend some extra time at the range! We actually had a doctor bring a gun up still in the box from Walmart. Second shots are unusual and opportunities to sight in your gun are limited. You should be comfortable and confident in your weapon and your ability.
- J** Clothes should be layered. The temperature is pretty hard to gauge. Scent Lok suits are recommended Boots should have rubber soles for scent control. Do not use/bring Earth Scent Cover or Soap.
- K** Tip - Save Bacon Grease in a coffee can to bring with you. Don't mix it. It is a great bait aid. Bring latex gloves to spread the grease on trees around your bait. Bring a thick cushion to sit on.
- L** Tip - We have gone to a lot of effort to put these packets together. Please take the time and review them. They contain essential guidance on getting the most out of your trip to Bear Lake.